



IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re application of : **Confirmation No. 7080**  
Yoshihiko MATSUKAWA et al. : Docket No. 2000\_1663A  
Serial No. 09/719,231 : Group Art Unit 2621  
Filed February 22, 2001 : Examiner Duy M. Dang

IMAGE CODING APPARATUS, IMAGE  
DECODING APPARATUS, CHARACTER  
COLLATION APPARATUS, AND DATA  
STORAGE MEDIUM

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**RESPONSE TO SPECIES ELECTION REQUIREMENT**

Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

THE COMMISSIONER IS AUTHORIZED  
TO CHARGE ANY DEFICIENCY IN THE  
FEES FOR THIS PAPER TO DEPOSIT  
ACCOUNT NO. 23-0975

Sir:

In response to the species election requirement contained in item 3 on page 2 of the Office Action, the Applicants hereby provisionally elect **Species 4** corresponding to the fourth embodiment described on page 86, line 18 to page 92, line 21 of the specification and in Figure 4, and respectfully traverse the species election requirement for the following reasons. Claims 1-3 and 8 read on the provisionally elected species.